

Serial No.: 09/681,591
Amdt. Dated April 26, 2004.
Reply to Office action of February 26, 2004.

REMARKS

In the Office Action, mailed on February 26, 2004, the Examiner allowed claims 22-26, and 63, rejected claims 1, 2, 12-15, 17, 19, 27, 29, 37-40, 42, 45, 47, 55-57 and 60 and objected to claims 3-11, 16, 18, 20, 21, 28, 30-36, 41, 43, 44, 46, 48-54, 58, 59, 61 and 62. Claims 1-63 remain pending in the application.

The February 26 Office Action has been carefully considered. Claim 27 has been amended to correct a typographical error. Objections to the information disclosure statement, informalities and Claims have been addressed. The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application by the Examiner in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Objections to Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement filed on 8/1/01 has been only partially considered by the Examiner. A reference (Kirk Othmer Encyclopedia of Chemical Technology, Third Edition, Volume 18, pp. 479-494) was not considered by the Examiner because the Applicant did not provide a copy of it. This failure to provide a hard copy of the Kirk Othmer reference was inadvertent and is regretted. The Applicant proposes to submit a copy of the reference together with a Supplemental Invention Disclosure Statement to correct the deficiency in the originally filed Invention Disclosure Statement.

Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to claim 27 due to informalities, and has required that "elementoperationally" be replaced by -- element operationally --. Accordingly, Applicant has amended claim 27 to comply with the Examiner's request for correction.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b)

Claims 1-2, 12-15, 17, 19, 45, 47, 55-57 and 60 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) as being anticipated by Goldenberg et. al (US 5,760,955). The Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

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In order to anticipate under §102, a reference must teach every aspect of the claimed invention. Accordingly, the Applicant submits that Goldenberg et. al does not teach all of the limitations of independent claims 1 and 45 upon which claims 2, 12-15, 17, 19, 47, 55-57 and 60 depend.

Applicant submits that Goldenberg et al. does not disclose the distribution of a decorrelated light emerging from the screen element towards the audience space and is silent on the effect of decorrelated light on speckle reduction. The reference instead teaches, in the specification and in figures 10-12 in particular, the use of a bulk diffuser and diffusion gratings to increase the path length of the optical signal that is distinct from the presently claimed decorrelated light system where the optical path difference is at least twice the coherence length of light, as provided in paragraphs [0025] and [0029] of the specification. The decorrelated light hence acts as an independent light source that helps reduce speckle to a much greater extent than using a bulk diffuser or gratings that marginally influence the optical path length. It is in fact debatable whether the incorporation of a grating can have any influence at all on the optical path of a light beam, let alone substantially reducing the speckle.

Because the reference cited by the Examiner does not teach every aspect of the claimed invention, the Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections of independent claims 1 and 45 and the claims dependent thereon (i. e. Claims 2, 12-15, 17, 19, 47, 55-57 and 60) under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Goldenberg et al. be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a)

Claims 27, 29, 37-40 and 42 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Goldenberg (U.S. Patent 5,760,955) in view of Yoshida (U.S. patent 5,066,099).

Applicant respectfully submits that independent Claims 22 and 27, upon which claims 29, 37-40 and 42 depend recite, the limitation of "decorrelated light emerging from the screen element towards the audience space".

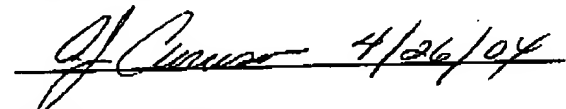
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Applicant respectfully submits that, in order to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, the references must teach or suggest all of the claim limitations of the present invention. Accordingly, Applicant submits that neither Goldenberg et al. nor Yoshida et al. teach or suggest all the elements of the claimed invention. Namely, neither of the references teaches nor suggests "decorrelated light emerging from the screen element towards the audience space". Both Goldenberg and Yoshida are silent on the decorrelated light beam claimed in the present invention.

Applicant therefore requests that, because the combination of references cited by the Examiner neither teaches nor suggests all of the limitations of claims 22 and 27, the rejection of these claims and claims dependent thereon under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Goldenberg et al. in view of Yoshida et al. be withdrawn.

In light of the amendment and remarks presented herein, Applicant submits that the case is in condition for immediate allowance and respectfully requests such action. If, however, any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the Applicant's counsel at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



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